



BECOMING A FAMILY FARMER

2026

A SHORT GUIDE FOR SUPER
APPLICANTS

FERMIERÈRE
DE FAMILLE
LE RÉSEAU

WELCOME!

« Agriculture is mankind's first occupation: it is the most honest, the most useful, and consequently the most noble that one can pursue. »

– Jean-Jacques Rousseau

This quote perfectly illustrates the philosophy that has driven our network for nearly three decades.

In its early days, few would have imagined that the RFF would become, 30 years later, the largest network of local organic farms in the world.

By coming together around shared values and tools, and by working every day in the fields and in the offices, the Family Farmers Network is building a more sustainable society and agriculture, one basket at a time. Our future lies in the collective, in solidarity – for ourselves and for future generations.

In the following pages you will discover a portrait of our non-profit organization: from its missions to its membership, its pillars and its history. We hope that this overview of our collective will inspire you to learn more and to join the ranks of our movement to build an ever stronger organic agriculture!

We look forward to welcoming you!

SUMMARY

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PRESENTATION OF THE FAMILY FARMERS NETWORK

1996 Our History

Born within Équiterre, the RFF started as a modest pilot project between a single farm and around fifty citizens, inspired by a concept that emerged in Japan in the 1970s: Community Supported Agriculture. The idea was simple and revolutionary: directly connecting organic farms with the families who support them.

2006 The RFF Takes Off

The network truly took off and began expanding across the regions of Québec and Acadie, bringing together more and more farms and subscribers around a shared vision.

2020 Management supported by CAPÉ

In 2020, a new chapter opened: the Cooperative pour une Agriculture de Proximité Écologique (CAPÉ) took over the management and development of the network, bringing renewed structure and resources for four years.

2024 A new chapter in autonomous governance

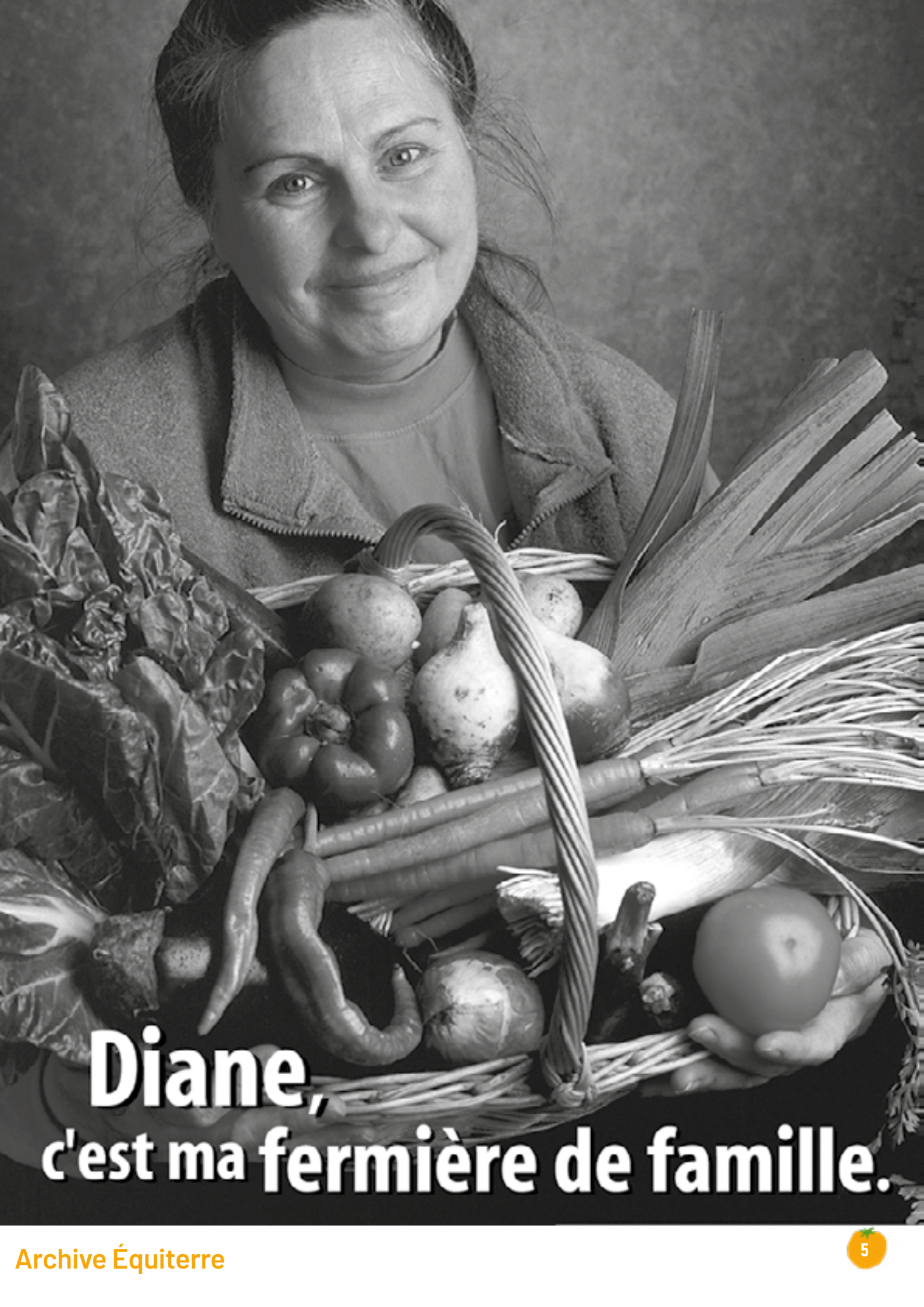
In **November 2024**, following the closure of CAPÉ, the RFF entered a new chapter, **beginning a fully autonomous governance with its own governance structure**. A participatory structure, rooted in the founding values of solidarity, proximity, and sustainable ecological agriculture.

2026 30 YEARS!

What started as a pilot project has become, 30 years later, the largest network of local organic farms in the world.

OUR MISSIONS

To bring together and support local organic farms through **Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** and to contribute to the social movement in favour of a **more supportive and resilient food system**.



Diane,
c'est ma fermière de famille.

THE NETWORK IN NUMBERS

86

MAIN FARMS

28

ASSOCIATE FARMS

13

REGIONS IN QUEBEC AND ACADIE

350

DELIVERY POINTS

17 000 SUBSCRIBERS / YEAR

1996-2026
30 YEARS!



WHAT THE NETWORK'S SUBSCRIBERS SAY

85% of subscribers plan to re-subscribe to the same farm

50% have been subscribers for 5 years or more

80% are satisfied or very satisfied with their baskets and the service provided by their farms

The RFF is home to a community of convinced and loyal subscribers, as shown by these messages received through our 2025 satisfaction survey.

« The vegetables are really good. **The freshness, taste, quality and even the quantity are the best.** I will never be able to do without them again. A huge THANK YOU to my favourite market gardeners. They keep me healthy. Thank you so much »

« I love you all very much, **for nearly 10 years**, you have been providing us with vegetables of the highest quality! »

« I want to express my complete satisfaction with the exceptional quality of your products. **Every basket of organic vegetables I receive reflects your expertise and commitment.** Thank you for your professionalism, your kindness and the consistently fresh vegetables. It is a true pleasure to support such attentive and authentic production. »

« It is a privilege to have access to this quality of products. **This family is incredible and I want to spend more time at the farm volunteering.** It is a joy to be around them. I love them and I will resubscribe without a second thought. »



WHAT THE MEMBER FARMERS SAY

« The RFF gives me a sense of belonging to a community of farmers who are like me. I feel supported, and being part of a network allows us to showcase our model at a national level and to demonstrate that it is a credible way to envision the future of our agriculture. »

Joëlle, Ferme du Petit 6, member farm since 2026

« The network provides me with support and higher quality standards to uphold. Representing a network pushes us to strive for excellence in everything we do, since our actions have repercussions that go beyond our own business. It matters to feel that our farm is part of a global movement that is trying to put a little sand in the gears of the global agricultural system. It's the old cliché: alone we go faster, together we go further. »

Frédéric, Ferme Coopérative La Roquette, member since 2020

« The RFF brings us support, tools and a valuable exchange network among organic farms. It is reassuring to be part of a group that understands our reality and helps us grow. The RFF is also an important voice for promoting farms like ours and reminding people of the importance of local, human-scale organic agriculture. For us, it is something like the big family of organic farms. »

Mylaine, Les Jardins d'en Haut, member farm since 2016

« For me, the RFF is the perfect blend of a citizen movement, a community and a buying group. Being part of the RFF gives us access to discounts on inputs (seeds, fertilizers...) which is a great help throughout the season. Over the years, we build connections with other farmers, visit unique farms and learn so much! But the RFF is above all community supported agriculture. As a farmer, there is nothing more rewarding than knowing the people who will eat our vegetables. »

Camille, Coopérative au Pied de Céleri, member farm since 2012

« [Being part of the RFF] you feel like you belong to something bigger and that you have a whole support system and a strength behind you. »

Véronique, Coopérative Jardins de Tessa, member farm since 1996

FEIRNIE DE LÉCUMNIES BIOL, ORGANIQUES



4 PILLARS OF THE FFN

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

LOCAL PRODUCTION

MUTUAL COMMITMENT

CONVIVIALITY

Courgettes
et
BETTERAVES



WHY JOINING THE NETWORK?

Our mission is to bring together and support local organic farms through Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and to contribute to the social movement in favour of a more supportive and resilient food system.

RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS



The network not only allows members to use the **“Family Farmer”** designation, but also automatically grants access to the **“Aliments du Québec”** label, which is widely recognized throughout Quebec (valid for vegetables only, not processed products).

PROMOTIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND VISIBILITY

- Large-scale advertising campaigns across digital platforms, newspapers, and local media
- Visibility on the Family Farmers Network (RFF) interactive map: display of all pickup locations
- Promotion of CSA programs to the public through education and community engagement: kiosks, events, and conferences
- Member-citizen recruitment campaigns twice a year; individualized follow-up and support for subscription sales, kiosks, public markets, and seedling sales
- Development of CSA offerings in new territories, analysis of community demand, and establishment of partnerships for pickup locations (EXO, Metro, etc.)

9k

SUBSCRIBERS ON INSTAGRAM

20k

SUBSCRIBERS ON FACEBOOK

75%

OPEN RATES FOR NEWSLETTER RENEWALS*

WHY JOINING THE NETWORK?

CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF MARKET GARDENING EXPERTISE

Being part of the Family Farmers Network (RFF) also means continuing to stay informed about new agricultural practices, keeping up with the latest innovations, and following agricultural news across the province through:

- a monthly newsletter for members
- free winter training sessions on key topics: marketing, management, production, and more
- self-build workshops for various farm equipment (vegetable washer, mesclun spinner, machinery, etc.)
- farm visits between members: mutual learning, sharing best practices, and reducing farmer isolation
- a Fall Gathering, Organic Field Expo, and Annual General Meeting: spaces to share knowledge and grow together
- regional cohorts to collectively explore specific agronomic practices (depending on available funding)

CUSTOM ONLINE MANAGEMENT PLATFORM

A digital tool created by and for farmers:

- Online subscriber registration and secure payments
- Simplified invoicing and subscriber schedule management
- Ongoing feature development in collaboration with the real needs of member farms

WHY JOINING THE NETWORK?

DISCOUNTS WITH PARTENAIRES PRIVILEGES

RFF member farms benefit from an exclusive catalogue of partner suppliers with significant discounts averaging around 10%:

- **Seeds**

Johnny's Seeds, High Mowing, William Dam, Norseco...

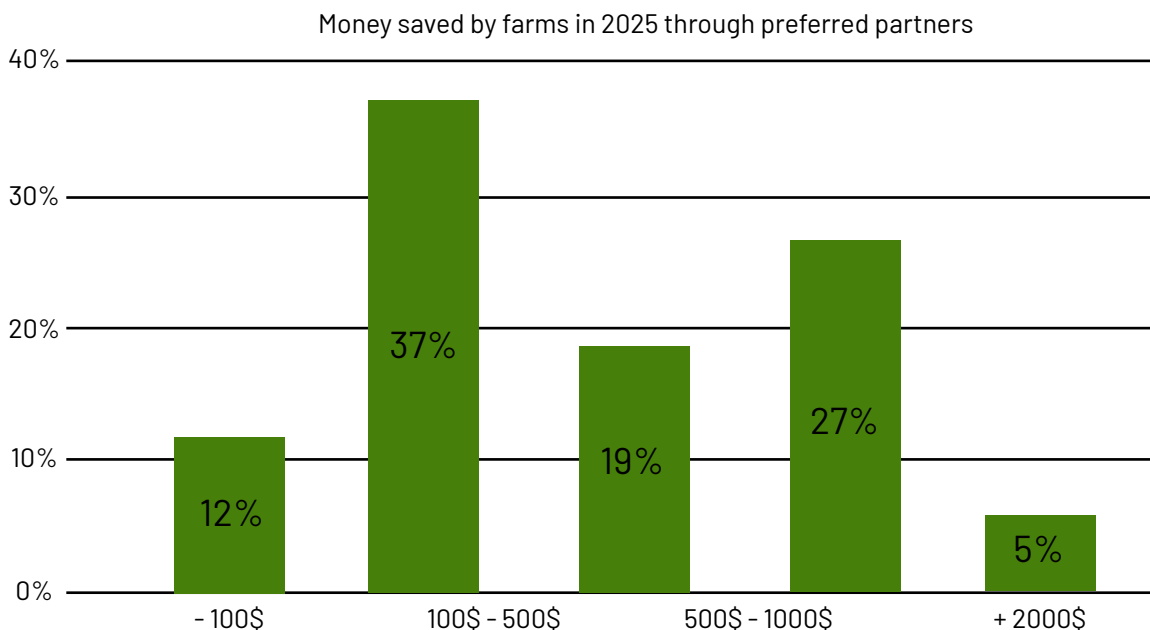
- **Organic inputs**

Acti-Sol, Anatis Bioprotection, Ferme les Blés d'Or, Teris, Plant Products....

- **Tools & equipment**

Dubois Agrinovation, Équipements Thivierge, Harnois, Maximus...

And much more! For a total of 23 preferred partners, allowing member farms to save precious dollars*:



*27% of member farms report having saved between \$1,000 and \$2,000 through preferred partners in 2025.

WHY JOINING THE NETWORK?

ÉCOLES ENRACINÉES - SCHOOLS TAKE ROOT: A COMPLEMENTARY MARKETING CHANNEL

The Schools Take Root program allows member farms to establish partnerships with schools or daycare centres (CPEs) to sell baskets of organic vegetables and garden seedlings through fundraising campaigns.

- One-off sales that complement your regular marketing activities
- Turnkey campaigns, easy to implement and managed with RFF-support
- Visibility with potential customers: parents and school staff

REPRESENTATION WITH AGRICULTURAL AND AGRI-FOOD ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

The RFF is a recognized voice in the local organic agriculture sector and maintains a presence at key gatherings to advocate for the needs of our member farms.

The RFF sits on the boards of Alliance Saluterre, the Montreal Food Systems Council, the Alliance des Systèmes Alimentaires Territoriaux, and Commun'assiette. Furthermore, in 2025 we participated in meetings with the APMQ and the UPA regarding the new contribution framework for coordination bodies, in order to make our members' needs heard.

Between February 2025 and May 2026, the RFF was present at 34 events organized by the following organizations: Association des Marchés Publics du Québec, Association des Producteurs Maraîchers du Québec, CETAB+, Chantier de l'économie sociale, CIBLE, Collectif Récolte, Commun'assiette, Compagnons Maraîchers, Montreal Food Systems Council, Filière Bio du Québec, Forum SAT, MAPAQ, Partenariat Climat Montréal, Producteurs de Serre du Québec, Regroupement des Cuisines Collectives du Québec, Réseau Québécois de recherche en agriculture durable, Regroupement des Tables de Concertation Bioalimentaires du Québec, Union Paysanne, UPA, Urgenci.

WHY JOINING THE NETWORK?

A MULTIGENERATIONAL AND SOLIDARITY-BASED NETWORK

Within the network, knowledge circulates: each new farm enriches the collective with its own perspective and benefits from 30 years of accumulated experience.



8

**FARMS
20+ YEARS**



14

**FARMS
15+ YEARS**



38

**FARMS 5-
YEARS**



YOU?

**MEMBER
SINCE 2027**



WANT TO LEARN MORE?



RECRUITMENT PROCESS STEPS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Be certified organic or in the process of becoming certified
- Produce at least 75% of the products sold
- Market through baskets or via prepaid cards of a minimum value of \$150 usable at markets

HOW TO APPLY?



APPLICATION SUBMISSION

// July 1, 2026*

- [Registration form](#)
- Production plan
- production plan + organic certificate (or pre-certification / transition)
- Business plan for start-up farms



SITE VISIT

// August 2026

Conducted by an RFF member farmer



FILE REVIEW

// September 2026

By the RFF team and the Recruitment Committee



DECISION

// September 2026

By the RFF team and the Committee



ONBOARDING TRAINING

// November 2026

For selected farms: comprehensive training on the platform, tools and network practices

* July 1st has passed? We are always happy to meet you. Contact us at any time!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU!

WANT TO LEARN MORE?
CONTACT HÉLÈNE SABY

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